

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (currently amended) A cooking vessel comprising:
a base having an interior surface including a lower portion configured to provide a main cooking surface and an upper portion having a textured surface configured to retain food above the main cooking surface; and

an angled handle providing an elongate arm forming a pistol-type gripping portion and a handle grip member, said handle grip member movable between a first position adjacent said pistol-type gripping portion and a second position spaced away from said pistol-type gripping portion to facilitate release of said handle from said base.

2. (original) The cooking vessel of claim 1, wherein the handle is detachable and exchangeable with a second handle.

3. (original) The cooking vessel of claim 1, wherein the gripping portion of handle has an axis extending at an angle with respect to a horizontal surface on the vessel.

4. (original) The cooking vessel of claim 2, wherein the angle between the gripping portion and the horizontal surface is between about 30 degrees and 60 degrees.

5. (original) The cooking vessel of claim 4, wherein the vessel is in the form of a wok.

6. (original) The cooking vessel of claim 2, wherein the handle is exchangeable with a casserole-style handle.

7. (original) The cooking vessel of claim 1, wherein the interior surface of the cooking vessel includes textured food retention surface located above the main cooking surface.

8. (original) The cooking vessel of claim 7, wherein the food retention surface includes elongate recesses or grooves annularly located about the center of the vessel.

9. (original) The cooking vessel of claim 7, wherein the food retention surface includes a pattern of elongate grooves aligned radially from the center of the interior of the vessel.

10. (original) The cooking vessel of claim 7, wherein the textured surface includes dimples.

11. (original) The cooking vessel of claim 7, wherein the textured surface has a higher coefficient of friction than the main cooking surface, the textured surface disposed above the main cooking surface.

12. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 2, further comprising a handle attachment member on the cooking vessel.

13. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 12, wherein the handle attachment member includes a pivotal connection.

14. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 12, further comprising a handle release device, said handle release device adapted to be manipulated to release said angled handle from said base when said grip member is in said first position.

15. (previously presented) A cooking vessel comprising:
a base having an interior surface including a lower portion configured to provide a main cooking surface;

an upper portion on the interior surface, the upper portion being textured differently than the main cooking surface to retain food above the main cooking surface;

a pistol-type handle, said handle comprising an elongate arm and a trigger, portions of said trigger separable from said arm to permit said handle to attach to said base, wherein said trigger may be brought into a position adjacent said arm to lock said handle to said base.

16. (original) The cooking vessel of claim 15, wherein the food retention surface includes elongate recesses or grooves annularly located about the center of the vessel.

17. (original) The cooking vessel of claim 15, wherein the food retention surface includes a pattern of elongate grooves aligned radially from the center of the interior of the vessel.

18. (original) The cooking vessel of claim 15, wherein the textured surface includes dimples.

19. (original) The cooking vessel of claim 15, wherein the textured surface has a higher coefficient of friction than the main cooking surface, the textured surface disposed above the main cooking surface.

20. (original) The cooking vessel of claim 15, wherein the main cooking surface extends in a substantially horizontal direction, and the vessel further includes a handle having a gripping portion providing an axis that extends at an angle with respect to the horizontal axis.

21. (original) The cooking vessel of claim 20, wherein the angle between the axis of the handle and the horizontal surface is between about 30 degrees and 60 degrees.

22. (previously presented) A cooking vessel comprising:
a base portion;

at least two interchangeable handles, both of which are attachable to the cooking vessel, and one of which handles is an elongate, angled pistol-type gripping handle used while cooking in the cooking vessel, for shaking and flipping food ingredients in the cooking vessel while cooking, and the other handle is a serving handle that does not extend from the cooking vessel as far as the cooking handle and is used to facilitate serving of the cooked dish or carrying the cooking vessel before

or after cooking, whereby the cooking handle and the serving handle are attachable and detachable from the same portion of the cooking vessel, wherein the cooking handle comprises a pistol-type gripping portion and a trigger, portions of the trigger separable from the pistol-type gripping portion to allow the handle to be attached to the vessel and movable toward the pistol-type gripping portion to lock the handle to the vessel.

23. (original) The cooking vessel of claim 22, further comprising a predetermined attachment point at which the detachable handles can be attached and detached.

24. (original) The cooking vessel of claim 23 further comprising, a permanent handle that is appropriate to facilitate serving with the serving handle, and is preferably situated opposite the attachment point for the detachable handles.

25. (previously presented) A wok comprising:

- a substantially bowl-shaped base having an interior surface including lower portion configured to provide a main cooking surface;

- a handle having gripping portion having an axis and gripping surface, the gripping portion extending at an angle with respect to a horizontal surface of the base to provide a pistol style gripping portion, wherein the handle comprises a pin, a pistol grip member, and a grip member, the grip member rotatable about the pin between an open position away from said pistol grip portion and a closed position in abutting relation with said pistol grip portion, to facilitate attachment of said handle to said base; and

- an upper portion on an interior surface of the wok having a textured surface configured to retain food above the main cooking surface.

26. - 36. (canceled)

37. (previously presented) A cooking vessel comprising:
a base portion;

at least two interchangeable handles, both of which are attachable to the cooking vessel, and one of which handles is an elongate, gripping handle used while cooking in the cooking vessel, for shaking and flipping food ingredients in the cooking vessel while cooking, and the other handle is a serving handle that does not extend from the cooking vessel as far as the cooking handle and is used to facilitate serving of the cooked dish or carrying the cooking vessel before or after cooking, whereby the cooking handle and the serving handle are attachable and detachable from the same portion of the cooking vessel and both handles include a safety release to prevent inadvertent release of the handle, the safety release including a release device that cooperates with an interior handle lock;

wherein the elongate gripping handle further comprises an additional interior handle lock that cooperates with grip device on the handle that moves between an engaged and disengaged position.

38. (previously presented) The cooking vessel of claim 37, wherein said base further comprises an interior surface having a lower portion configured to provide a main cooking surface and an upper portion textured differently than said lower portion to retain food above the main cooking surface.

39. (canceled)

40. (previously presented) The cooking vessel of claim 38, further including elongate recesses or grooves annularly located about the center of the vessel at least in the upper portion.